

Q3 means for receiving and routing the customer request and extended DHCP request to the selected ISP for providing all IP services to the customer after updating routing tables in the router; and

means for directing future customer request for all IP services directly to the selected ISP based on the updated routing tables thereby bypassing standard Internet DHCP protocol.

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Q4 3. (Amended) The broadband network of Claim 1 further comprising:

means for storing customer address information in the database.

4. (Amended) The broadband network of Claim 2 further comprising:

means for mapping the unique customer address to the DHCP request.

5. The broadband network of Claim 1 further comprising:

routing means coupled to the BMPS for serving a plurality of ISPs.

6. (Amended) A broadband multi service proxy server, comprising:

means coupling the server via a router to a broadband IP based network serving a plurality of customers;

means coupling the server and the router to an IP network via at least one Internet Service Providers (ISP) in a plurality of ISPs;

means for generating a customer request including an extended DHCP message for access to the IP network, the extended DHCP message including an identification of a selected ISP for all ISP services;

ISP for all ISP services;

means enabling the customer to access the selected ISP of choice for IP network services;

and

means for directing future customer requests for IP services directly to the selected ISP

after updating routing tables in the router thereby bypassing standard Internet DHCP protocol.

8. (Amended) The server of Claim 6 further comprising:

means for pre- registering a customer for IP service with an ISP prior to generating a customer request; and

means for sending the server a customer ID and password for customers registered by the ISP.

11. (Amended) The server of Claim 6 further comprising:

means for mapping validated customer requests to a unique customer address; and

means emulating the ISP and sending the customer a DHCP response to the customer request.

12. (Amended) The server of Claim 6 further comprising:

means for validating a customer request for access to the IP network at the ISP of customer choice.

13. (Amended) In a broadband IP based network including server means coupled to the network and to a plurality of ISPs via a switching means, a method of providing IP services to

network customers via an ISP of their choice, comprising the steps of:

registering a customer for IP services from a selected internet service provider (ISP);

generating a request by the customer including a DHCP message for IP services from the selected ISP;

sending the request and DHCP message to the server for processing to determine if the customer is approved by the network for receiving IP services;

AL sending the request and an extended DHCP message for IP service to the selected ISP for all ISP services;

returning the extended DHCP message to the server and updating tables in the switching means to provide the customer with IP services directly from the selected ISP; and

directing future customer requests for IP services directly to the selected ISP thereby bypassing standard Internet DHCP protocol.

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97 15. (Amended) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

emulating the ISP by the server means and sending a DHCP reply to the customer followed by updating the switching means to allow the customer to access the ISP of choice.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims in the application are requested.

Claims 1-20 are in the case. Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over USP 6,212,563 B1 to N. Beser issued April 3, 2001, filed October 1, 1998 (Beser) in view of USP 6,101, 182 to K. Sistanizadeh et al. issued August 8, 2000, filed November 25, 1997 (Sistanizadeh).